CATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COLLERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



I (BORK BRIGHTRI II BITHIB KITH BELIL BOTH BIKK FIL HI BOTH BOTH BOTH AND BELIT TOKA BIH BIRLADI KODI KIRL DOD

(43) International Publication Date 20 January 2005 (20.01,2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/005096 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: B23Q 3/08, B24B 41/06, H01L 21/68, B28D 5/00, 7/04, B25B 11/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/SG2003/000170

(22) International Filing Date: 14 July 2003 (14.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

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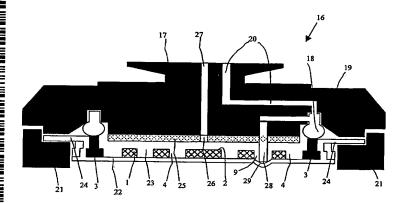
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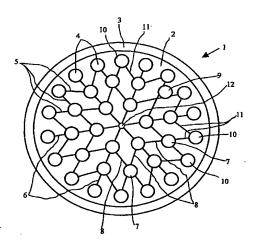
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PERFORATED PLATE FOR WAFER CHUCK



(57) Abstract: A perforated plate (1) for use in a wafer-handling chuck (16) has a pattern of through holes (4) by which a vacuum is applied to a membrane (22) to form suctions cups (31) that secure a wafer (30) to the chuck. Grooves (5) in a generally planar upper surface (2) of the plate interconnect the through holes. The grooves ensure the maintenance of the vacuum, and the consequent formation of the membrane suction cups, at each through hole, even when the grooved surface of the plate is in close face-to-face contact with another planar surface in the chuck. In one embodiment, the through holes in the perforated plate lie on concentric circles and the grooves interconnect radially-outward through holes to the next closest one or pair of radially-inward through holes.





Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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